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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

26161 7590 07/13/2004
FISH & RICHARDSON PC
225 FRANKLIN ST
BOSTON, MA 02110

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| EXAMINER | |
| VEILLARD, JACQUES | |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| 2175 | |
| DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004 | |

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/940,132 | 08/27/2001 | Mihai Preda | +13463-002001 | 3929 |

TITLE OF INVENTION: RANKING NODES IN A GRAPH

| APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE | PUBLICATION FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| nonprovisional | NO | \$1330 | \$300 | \$1630 | 10/13/2004 |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail**

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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or Fax (703) 746-4000

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

26161 7590 07/13/2004

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Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (703) 746-4000, on the date indicated below.

| |
|--------------------|
| (Depositor's name) |
| (Signature) |
| (Date) |

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| EXAMINER | ART UNIT | CLASS-SUBCLASS |
|-------------------|----------|----------------|
| VEILLARD, JACQUES | 2175 | 707-005000 |

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent); ☐ individual ☐ corporation or other private group entity ☐ government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- ☐ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is not claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See, e.g., 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above.

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(Authorized Signature)

(Date)

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 625 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 625 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/940,132.

Examiner

Jacques Veillard

Applicant(s)

PRED A ET AL.

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/27/2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Charles Rones
CHARLES RONES
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the applicant's communication filed on 8/27/2001.
2. Claims 1-39 are pending and presented for examination, upon which claims 1, 5, 9, 19, 26-28, 31, 36-39 are the independent claims. Other claims are the dependent.

Drawings

3. The drawings filed on August 27, 2001, are approved by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152.

Examiner's Amendment

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Frank R. Occhiuti (Reg. No.35, 306) the undersigned for applicant(s) on July 7, 2004.

5. The application has been amended as follow:

Amendment to the claims

Please amend the listing of claim below as required by the attorney.

Listing of claim:

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[1]] 5, wherein said updating is confined to selected Web units in the Internet, constituting a sub-graph of the Internet.

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Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-39 are allowed over the prior art of record.
7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's approach to updating importance rank of nodes in a dynamically changing large graph by ranking web pages in the internet environment comprising the steps of updating the importance rank of nodes in the graph in real time during visit of nodes in the graph; if the graph is not strongly connected, selectively applying corrective measures; and prescribed an algorithm for the order of visit of nodes wherein the algorithm that governs the order of visit of nodes is not prescribed by the updating and applying correction steps as embodied in the independent claims 1, 5, 26, and 36, in context with the other limitations of the claims and as further described in the specification on page 14, lines 4-30 and page 15, line 21 through page 16, line 30 et alia was not disclosed by , would not have been obvious over, nor would have been fairly suggested by the prior art of record.

The dependent claims, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and enabled by the specification are also allowed.

Applicant's four layered approach for updating and calculating importance rank of nodes in a dynamically changing graph comprising the steps of: storing for each node in the graph at least a short history indication representing the history of what happened to the node in terms of importance rank since last update; a long history indication representing the history of what happened to the node in terms of importance rank since a certain point of time in the past; a visiting process wherein the visiting node has at least one child node for distributing at least substantial part of the short history, and a recording process that records at least substantial part

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of the short history indication of the visited node to the long history indication of the visited node and designating that the recording has been accomplished as embodied in the independent claims 9, 19, 27, 28, 31, 37, 38, and 39, in context with the other limitations of the claims and as further described in the specification on page 20, line 23 through page 23, line 26 et alia was not disclosed by , would not have been obvious over, nor would have been fairly suggested by the prior art of record.

The dependent claims, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and enabled by the specification are also allowed.

The closest prior arts Bharat et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 6,112,203, hereinafter Bharat) and Kleinberg (U. S. Pat. No. 6,112,203) disclose an algorithm for ranking a set of document based on link structure, wherein the algorithm associates each page an authority weight and a hub weight, but which lacked Applicant's claimed features. The prior arts of record fail to anticipate or render Applicant's limitations above obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Other Prior art Made Of Record

8. Mukherjea, S., et al. "Visualizing Complex Hypermedia Networks through Multiple Hierarchical Views", ACM, May 7, 1995, pp 331-337,

Chi et al. U. S. Pat. No. 6,509,898,

Pitkow et al. U. S. Pat. No. 6,369,819,

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| Broder | U. S. Pat. No. 6,560,600, |
| Hao et al. | U. S. Pat. No. 6,377,287, |
| Gilmore et al. | U. S. Pat. No. 6,008,817, |
| Wen | U. S. Pat. 6,407,739, |
| Klein et al. | U. S. Pat. No. 6,704,729, |
| Dean et al. | U. S. Pat. No. 6,321,220, |
| Inoue et al. | U. S. Pat. No. 6,014,678, |
| Wiener et al. | U. S. Pat. No. 6,598,051, |
| Heckerman et al. | U. S. Pat. No. 6,216,134, |
| Kleinberg | U. S. Pat. No. 6,112,202, and |
| Bharat et al. | U. S. Pat. No. 6,112,203. |

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

10. **Any response to this action should mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 305-9051 (for formal of draft communication intended for entry)

Or:

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(703) 308-5357 (for informal of draft communications, please label

“PROPOSED” or “DRAFT”)

Hand- delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2021 Crystal Drive, Arlington VA, Sixth floor (Receptionist).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacques Veillard whose telephone number is (703) 305-7094. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to about 4:00 PM., and on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici, can be reached at (703) 305-3830. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 308-5403.

J.V.

Jacques Veillard
Patent Examiner TC 2100

July 7, 2004

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